USHJA Young Jumper Task Force Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2019 – 3:30 pm ET via Teleconference

Committee Members Participating: Jason Mc Ardle (Chair), Rachel Bates, Kirsten Coe, Joe Fargis, Brooke Kemper, Lisa Lourie, Mandy Porter (7)

Committee Members Not Present: Susan Hutchison, Andrew Ramsay, Willie Tynan (3)

Also Present: Jennifer Osterman (USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs), DiAnn Langer (USHJA Show Jumping Technical Advisor) (2)

I. Welcome and Roll Call
Mr. Mc Ardle called the meeting to order and Ms. Osterman performed the roll call; with seven (7) members present, a quorum was met.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 28, 2019.
Ms. Kemper made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 28, 2019; Mr. Fargis seconded, the motion was passed unanimously.

III. USHJA 2021 Young Jumper Championship Proposal
Ms. Mc Ardle brought forward a couple of changes regarding the proposed Breeders Bonus Award to include Four and Eight Year Olds so that all age groups are being awarded. Ms. Lourie commented that the Four Year Olds would be judged subjectively and the older horses will be judged objectively. The criteria for scoring the Four Year Olds is listed in the championship specifications, and this will be used to determine the Breeder Bonus Award to the highest scoring Four Year Old. The Task Force also agreed to remove the bonus prize money for the Consolation Classes because the goal is to award the best breeders of each age group. Ms. Kemper questioned who will be hired to judge the Four Year Old championships. It was agreed that the judges should be approved by the Task Force, and it was suggested that they create a list of approved judges for horse show management to choose from. Ms. Osterman stated that this item should be included in the organizer requirements section of the specifications. Ms. Kemper also mentioned that if competition management wishes to hire a judge not on the list, then they can submit the suggestion to the Task Force for approval.
The Task Force shifted focus to discuss the different awards offered. The Leading Rider Award would be determined by the most placings across all age groups in order to award consistency. There was discussion if the rider award should be aimed at style of riding but could become too subjective. The style of riding would be difficult to make clear on how a rider is chosen as the winner, and the most stylish rider may not also be riding the winning horse. Mr. Fargis questioned how a rider would be scored if they compete more than one horse. Ms. Langer suggested that only their highest placed horse would be considered, but those riders with multiple horses have a clear advantage. Ms. Osterman stated if the Task Force wishes to add an award out of the championship budget, then it needs to be added in proposed document. A sponsor could put forward a style of riding award without additional cost from us.

Ms. Lourie questioned if the Breeders Bonus Award is the same as the Leading Owner/Breeder overall award listed on the document. Mr. Mc Ardle read through the bonus award description, and there is a difference for incentivizing the U.S. breeders to be awarded bonus prize money and the ribbon/trophy to the overall breeder. The Task Force agrees to change the awards list separately the Leading Overall Breeder and the Leading U.S. Breeder for the trophies.

The Task Force discussed the difference between horses being bred versus being foaled in the U.S. The current document states that regardless of nationality, if a horse is foaled in the U.S. then they are considered for the Breeders Bonus Award. Mr. Mc Ardle suggested that if the horse foals in the U.S., then the horse is considered American bred. Ms. Lourie recommended that the description of the award and what constitutes an American breeder should be listed so that it is understood who and how the bonus money is given. It was clarified and agreed upon that if a breeder does not come forward within three months of the championships, then that money is put back into the championship pool. The Task Force was in agreement to change the word “American” to “U.S.” for the title and description of the award. Ms. Osterman suggested that the U.S. Breeder Bonus Award under the Awards and Prize Money section of the specifications.

Ms. Osterman asked the Task Force to predict the number of horses might enroll at each enrollment period to help estimate the predicted income of the championships. Mr. Mc Ardle mentioned that he and Ms. Langer worked on that previously and will email it over to complete that part of the proposal.

The Task Forces shifted to discussing the qualifying classes for horses to become eligible for the Young Jumper Championships. There is concern that the current criteria that horses must qualify at Jumper Classic Series competitions might not be a very large pool of events and could restrict entries to the championship. In the
championship’s first year, we would want as many horses to qualify and compete as possible. Mr. Mc Ardle agreed that the championship’s first couple of years shouldn’t be exclusive to competitions with the Jumper Classic Series. Once the Classic Series becomes more popular, then we could establish a stricter criteria. It was discussed that competition management for some of the hunter programs submit a per-horse fee to the USHJA as additional revenue. Mr. Mc Ardle mentioned that competitions need a strong incentive in order to nominate their show as a qualifier and remit the fee to USHJA. There was discussion on how to put the per-horse into effect for competitions to become qualifiers for the championship. Ms. Osterman explained that deciding which shows would qualify a horse for the championship needs to be decided on and would not be able to change once it is approved through the USHJA Board of Directors. Ms. Osterman also said she will need to talk with other staff members on how the hunter programs achieve this and how to implement it for the Young Jumper Championship.

The Task Force will have another call on Monday, December 2 to finish the discussion on qualifying events and approve of the championship documents.

IV. Old Business
No old business was discussed.

V. New Business
No new business was discussed.

VI. Adjournment
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 P.M. Eastern.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Osterman
Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs